

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 216

By Swann

A RESOLUTION to commend Gary Rankin upon his induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those dedicated Tennesseans whose chosen vocation has been to coach high school athletic teams, molding the characters of young men through the discipline of organized sports; and

WHEREAS, one such remarkable individual is Gary Rankin, assistant principal and head football coach at Alcoa High School, who will be inducted into the Tennessee Secondary Schools Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame on April 9, 2011; and

WHEREAS, the TSSAA Hall of Fame enshrines only the finest and most dedicated coaches, officials, administrators, and volunteers, men and women who stand as shining examples of the unwavering commitment to excellence that defines their contributions to Tennessee's high school athletics; and

WHEREAS, Gary Rankin is a man who is certainly defined by just such a commitment to excellence. In his thirty-five years as a football coach, he has led his teams to an incredible number of victories and state titles, but Coach Rankin is perhaps better known for the guidance and instruction, in both football and in life, he has given to thousands of students over the past three-and-one-half decades; and

WHEREAS, Gary Rankin was the assistant football coach at Warren County High School from 1976-1981 before accepting the positions of head coach, athletic director, and assistant principal at Smith County High School; and

WHEREAS, he became the head football coach and athletic director at Riverdale High School in 1990 and, between then and 2005, his final year at Riverdale, he led the Warriors to Class 5A State Championships in 1994, 1997, 2001, and 2004; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Gary Rankin was named the assistant principal and head football coach at Alcoa High School. In the five years since, the Alcoa Tornados have captured five consecutive state titles, an incredible feat by any definition; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his career, Coach Rankin has accumulated a total of 323 victories, thirty-three fewer than the state record, and nine state championship titles, one less than the state record, and he has coached his teams to thirteen undefeated seasons; and

WHEREAS, his understanding of the sport of football and his ability to inspire his young players have cultivated a number of talented football players, including thirteen Mr. Football winners and one Gatorade State Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to awards and accolades, Gary Rankin has garnered a number of honors throughout his career, including numerous Coach of the Year awards, two National High School Coach of the Year awards, and a Tennessee Titans Coach of the Year award; and

WHEREAS, Coach Rankin epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; he has served with great diligence and dedication, positively influencing the lives of countless young people with his constant display of character and integrity; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Gary Rankin for his many years of coaching excellence and his contributions to high school football in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Gary Rankin on his many successful seasons as a football coach, applaud his fitting induction into the TSSAA Hall of Fame, and extend our best wishes for his every future happiness and success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.